

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05 /062 W

----- 077939

R 161700Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6630

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 8918

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJ: GHIZIKIS RESIGNS BUT LINGERS ON

1. GOG RELEASED DECEMBER 15 THE TEXTS OF LETTER OF RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS AND CARAMANLIS' ACCEPTANCE PENDING ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT. GHIZIKIS LETTER DATED DECEMBER 11 SAID ELECTIONS OF NOVEMBER 17 AND REFERENDUM OF DECEMBER 8 NO LONGER "MADE IT NECESSARY FOR ME TO ACCEPT YOUR KIND REQUEST TO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE THE DUTIES OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AFTER JULY 23." ON THE EVE OF ELECTION FOR NEW PRESIDENT HE WANTED TO RETURN TO PRIVATE LIFE "AND RELY ON THE IMPARTIAL JUDGMENT OF HISTORY. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I SHALL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT MY DUTIES FOR A FEW MORE DAYS, UNTIL THEY ARE TAKEN OVER THE NEW PRESIDENT." LETTER CLOSED WITH WARM FELICITATIONS TO CARAMANLIS.

2. IN HIS RESPONSE DECEMBER 14 CARAMANLIS REPLIED HE HAD "RECEIVED" STATEMENT THAT GHIZIKIS NO LONGER CONSIDERED HIMSELF BOUND TO THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AND THANKED HIM FOR ASSURANCE OF CONTINUING UNTIL NEW
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PRESIDENT ELECTED. HE THANKED GHIZIKIS FOR HIS SPIRIT

OF HARMONIOUS COOPERATION AND EXPRESSED "PROFOUND
ESTEEM FOR THE HIGH SENSE OF ETHICS WHICH CHARACTERIZED
THE EXERCISE OF YOUR DUTIES....IN ACCEPTING TO REMAIN
AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AFTER JULY 23, YOU OFFERED
THE NATION TRULY PRECIOUS SERVICES AT A MOST CRITICAL
MOMENT IN ITS HISTORY."

3. COMMENT: PERSONALLY WARM TONE OF LETTERS INDICATES
CARAMANLIS APPARENTLY DOES NOT SEEK, AND WOULD RESIST
ANY ATTEMPT TO LINK GHIZIKIS WITH DEJUNTIZATION. THIS
WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED BY THOSE GREEKS WHO BELIEVE
THAT GHIZIKIS' RELUCTANCE TO RETAIN PROVISIONAL PRESIDENCY,
HIS SIMPLE AND BLAND PERSONALITY, AND THOSE OMNIPRESENT
DARK GLASSES, CLOAK PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT AND ACCOUNTA-
BILITY FOR THE CYPRUS COUP. KUBISCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINT, GR, (GHIZIKIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005